CELESTIN CHIAPELLA.

DECEMBER 22, 1831.

MR. BULLARD, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of Celestin Chiapella, have had the same under consideration, and report:

That the petitioner has shown to the satisfaction of the committee, that he, and those under whom he holds, have possessed a plantation on the Mississippi, about nine miles below the city of New Orleans, for more than half a century; that it contains, according to a survey made by a deputy surveyor of the United States to whom the original titles were exhibited, the quantity of three thousand and eighty-seven acres; that a part of it is possessed by virtue of a French grant, dated July 8, 1723, in favor of Joseph Laloire, and another French grant in favor of Joseph Laloire, dated January 2d, 1767. Another part is held by virtue of a French grant to Sieur. Chaperon, dated January 23, 1759. The title to the remnant is shown by the recognition of the French Governor, as having been the property of Chaperon since the year 1723.

It appears by the certificate of the Register of the Land Office in New Orleans, that the French grants above referred to are recorded in his office, and the earliest one mentioned, to wit, that dated July 8, 1723, has been

exhibited to him, and is by him pronounced genuine.

It is proved by respectable witnesses that this plantation is one of the oldest on the river; has been cultivated to the knowledge of the witnesses since the year 1782, and has always been considered as the private property of Chiapella.

It appears by a certificate of Mr. Phelps, that the original French patents

were exhibited to him when he made the survey.

The committee is of opinion, that if this claim had been presented to the Commissioners of the Land Office, supported by the evidence now offered to the committee, the claimant would have been entitled to a certificate for the quantity of land claimed by him, and that therefore the prayer of the petitioner ought to be granted, and they accordingly report a bill for his relief.

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